

Below are two pages from an IPPF publication showing the relationship between GSUSA's affiliate WAGGGS and International Planned Parenthood. The project involved "training youth leaders in . . . sex education, contraception, abortions, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), pregnancy, and sexual relations." (Senanayake, P., and Kleiman, R. L. (eds.). 1993. *Family Planning: Meeting Challenges, Promoting Choices*. Proceedings of the IPPF Family Planning Congress, New Delhi, October 1992. Carn forth, England: Parthenon.) The relevant text has been highlighted in yellow to make it easier to see.

INTRODUCTION

Xall Yoon is an inter-NGO (non-governmental organization) project created by youth for youth. It is about giving responsibility to young people and intensifying collaboration between NGOs. Xall Yoon means, in Wolof, 'Clearing the Way/Opening the Gates'. It is the Senegalese contribution to the international project 'Youth for Youth: Promotion of Adolescent Reproductive Health Through NGO Collaboration', which aims to mobilize adolescents in matters concerning their health in general and their reproductive health in particular.

This international project is linked to the Safe Motherhood Initiative which came out of the Better Health for Women and Children through Family Planning and the Safe Motherhood meetings held in Nairobi in 1987. The project began in 1990 with funding provided by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). It is being carried out in six developing countries - Colombia, Egypt, Jamaica, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Sri Lanka. It is co-ordinated by the International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), the League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, the World Assembly of Youth, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (WAGGGS), the World Organization of the Scout Movement (WOSM), and the World Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA).

In Senegal, Xall Yoon was developed during a national five-day workshop in which young people from WAGGGS, WOSM, YMCA, national NGOs and representatives of five government ministries participated. The first day of the workshop was devoted to decision-ma-

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kers from local NGOs. During the subsequent four days of this participatory workshop, the youth (leaders) from the NGOs identified their problems and needs in reproductive health and then devised strategies in the form of Xall Yoon to address these.

The Senegalese Scouting Confederation was elected the co-ordinating NGO, and has successfully managed the project activities in three pilot regions. Xall Yoon started in Dakar and extended to Saint-Louis in the north and Ziguinchor in the south. All are urban regions.

Senegal has an estimated population growth of 2.8% per annum. Of the population, 53% are under the age of 21, and 48% are less than 15 years, with 23% of females aged 15-17 and 53% of males aged 14-15 being sexually active. Of all maternal deaths 24% are among adolescents. The weakening of the traditional controls by the family and the community, coupled with the desire by adolescents to assume their sexuality, has led them to start their sexual experiences with insufficient knowledge about reproduction and contraception. Even when adolescents know about contraceptive methods, they have difficulty in obtaining them. An increase in unwanted pregnancies among unmarried adolescents, and the subsequent increase in unsafe abortions, are becoming serious social and health problems. The activities which the youth have developed address the specific problems of adolescents in Senegal.

Aims and objectives

The goal of Xall Yoon is to promote and develop the reproductive health of adolescents. Its specific objectives are defined as:

- Identifying the needs of young people from puberty to the age of 24 years, in the field of reproductive health;
- Giving them information about reproductive health;
- Getting them to participate in designing and implementing the communication, training and action programmes aimed at them;
- Strengthening collaboration with various NGOs and other youth associations;
- Training youth leaders in communication, sex education, contraception, abortion, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), pregnancy, sexual relations, childbirth, child care, etc.;
- Producing educational materials (plays, songs, sketches, games, brochures, leaflets, calendars, books, etc.);
- Stimulating awareness of public officials;
- Stimulating awareness in the media to support the initiative.

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